

From: chuck418@space.com@inetgw
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/23/02 3:10pm
Subject: MS settlement offer

I'm glad you've asked the public to comment on the recently proposed settlement. While I appreciate many of the things Microsoft has done with it's monopoly position, I feel that their business tactics have hurt American competitiveness in the technology sector in two main ways:

A).Competing products do not have an opportunity to prove their worth in the marketplace in the face of the types of opposition MS generates. Most smaller companies have to close their doors in the face of MS lawyers rather than fight. And many good, income and efficiency producing ideas are lost to American business because of that.

B). There is a hidden MS tax in every computer product we build or sell. Licencing agreements force hardware manufacturers to sell a slew of Windows products with each computer, regardless of it's intended use. If I want a seperate computer for just multimedia, I still have to buy Windows, MS Office or MS Works, even if I use OPenBSD or Linux. Meanwhile, someone in China can sell just the hardware itself (without the "usual" OS and Office Aps) much cheaper. Same machine, just cheaper from our foreign competitors.I mean, just from a pure marketplace analysis, you can buy a cutting edge system CHEAPER from a communist nation than from the USA (who invented the technology)! And it's primarily these restrictive licencing agreements from MS that are hobbling our market share.

The US economy needs the freedom to innovate, and the current proposed settlement does not free MS partners and competitors from thses burdens.

And don't even start me on viruses, Active scripting and ports left open by default! That's just carelessness on MS's part. We need a better solution for American competitiveness.

Best,

Charles Landau, MPH & JD

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